



# THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 42

March 3, 2024

Number 9

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

- Bible Classes 10 am
- Worship 10:45 am and 2:00 pm
- Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm

### Elders

- Mike Ernstberger  
270-753-2108 Home  
270-293-7027 Cell
- James Pigg  
270-759-2145 Home  
270-293-2319 Cell

### Deacons

- Bobby Hall
- Jesse Vincent

### Preacher

- Jonnie Hutchison  
Cell: 270-978-7569

### Supporting Works

India—Dale Foster, David Nance, & Ronnie Gootam;  
Hatti/Cuba: Arnold Gerson

### Location

- Green Plain Church of Christ  
3980 Murray Paris Road  
Hazel, KY 42049
- Phone: (270) 492-8206
- [greenplaincoc@gmail.com](mailto:greenplaincoc@gmail.com)
- [greenplainchurchofchrist.org](http://greenplainchurchofchrist.org)

## PURE IN HEART *By Paul Clements*

The words of the hymn, *“Purer in heart, O God”*, should be on the lips and in the mind of everyone, especially children of God. The reason is offered in stanza three. We ask God to help us be pure in heart *“that I thy holy face one day may see.”* God will not welcome the impure into heaven. David said, *“Who shall ascend into the hill of Jehovah? And who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart ...”* (Psa. 24:3-4). Only the pure in heart shall see God (Mt. 5:8).

Paul advised his son in the faith, *“keep thyself pure”* (I Tim. 5:12). These words suggest a personal responsibility. This instruction is certainly needed now in this sinful age as much as it was in the first century. Temptation is on every hand. If we yield, impurity results, the church is tainted, and our influence is destroyed. How important it is for each of us to live pure lives.

Purity of heart is reflected in a pure life. Paul admonished Timothy to be an example of purity to the believers (I Tim. 4:12).

How can we be examples of purity? Solomon advised, *“Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life”* (Prov. 4:23). Christians are to think on things that are pure (Phil. 4:8). So pure lives come from pure hearts focused on pure thoughts.

Christians must utter only pure words. Evil communication is all about us. Paul said, *“Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but such as is good for edifying as the need may be, that it may give grace to them that hear”* (Eph. 4:29). Also, our actions toward others must be *“with all purity”* (I Tim. 5:1-2). The Christian life consists of pure actions and pure words reflecting pure thoughts.

What kind of religion do you have? Pure or impure? Pure religion is identified in part as keeping oneself *“unspotted ‘from the world’* (James 1:27). There are things worldly people do that Christians can’t do. They go places and do things that are unacceptable for Christians. If we engage in such worldly activities, we make ourselves impure in the sight of God. We are in the world,

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## NEWS AND NOTES

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** **Green Plain members:** Peggy Jarvis , Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder, Marjorie Grady, Marie Wyatt and Jim and Mary Lowrie. Hayes Grady remains in the Murray Hospital rehab.

**Family and Friends:** Ted Lovett, Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Tommy Boggess, Kim Burrows, Nat Evans, Lucetria Hutchison, and Ted Clark.

**PANTRY ITEMS** **March 2024:** 3—Ketchup; 10-Mustard; 17-Mayo; 24-Bar-B-Que Sauce; 31-Salad dressing (any kind). All items must be **non-perishable or canned.**

**March 2024; Anniversaries:** 12-Marie & Roy Wyatt; 15-Sue & Bobby Hall. **Birthdays:** 9-Gail Hutchison; 14-Roy Wyatt; 20-James Pigg. Please let us know if we have left anyone out.

**ENROLL IN A FREE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE.** Send your name and complete mailing address and phone number to Green Plain church of Christ 3980 Murray Paris RD Hazel, KY 42049 or email your request to greenplaincoc@gmail.com.

**HOME BIBLE STUDY;** Request a **FREE** home Bible study—“*Back to the Bible*” for anyone who is interested in gaining more knowledge of the Bible. Contact us to set up a time for our teachers to come into your home or meet at our building to begin this study.

⇒ **Spring Gospel Meeting** April 7-11 with Bradley Smith preacher for the Hickory Grove church of Christ. The theme for this meeting will be “Your Questions About the Church of Christ.” Please be praying for our meeting and plan on inviting others to attend with you. Schedule of Services: Sunday 10:00 am for Bible classes; 10:45 am for morning worship and **7:30** pm for evening worship.

### **THSE TO SERVE March 2024**

Announcements: Mike Ernstberger

Table AM: James Pigg & Chad Canter

Table PM: 3-Chad; 10-James; 17-Chad;  
24-James; 31-Chad

Opening Prayer AM: 3-Jonnie; 10-Perry;  
17-Bibby; 24-Jim L.; 31-Russell

Closing Prayer AM: 3-Roy; 10-Dave; 17-Jesse;  
24-Mike; 31-Junior

Song Leaders: AM-Perry; PM-Mike; Wed-Chad

Count Contribution: James & Chad  
**If you cannot serve contact Chad Canter**

### **GREEN PLAIN SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL STUDIES**

**SPRING 2024**

**March 4-April 29**

**Each Monday Evening**

**7:00—9:00 pm**

**In depth studies on  
Romans—Josh Manning  
2 Corinthians—Jack Phillips**

**Meet in the Annex**

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but cannot be of the world. Love of the world prevents the love of God from being in us ([1 Jn. 2:15-16](#)). Take heed therefore to your at-

tire, your conduct, your words and your very thoughts. Let us all strive to be pure in heart.

– From [Purer in Heart - Eastern Meadows Church of Christ](#)

## INFLUENCING OTHERS By Jonnie Hutchison

There is no doubt that each of us influences those around us through what we say and by what we do. The truth is that we can neither help it nor avoid it—that is the power of influence.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus compared human influence to both salt and light. *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:14-16 NKJV).

Think about the power of salt to influence whatever it touches. Salt has been used as a preservative for years. When salt is put on food it flavors it. Without the influence of salt many foods are bland and unappetizing. On the other hand, excessive amounts of salt not only can ruin the taste of food but may also raise blood pressure and negatively impact one’s health. So, the influence of salt may be either good or bad.

Since Jesus says that His disciples are the “salt of the earth” it follows that He expects us to exert a good and positive influence upon those around us. In writing to Timothy the inspired Apostle admonished, *“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in*

*spirit, in faith, in purity”* (1 Timothy 4:12). Yes, we can be a positive influence in what we say, in what we do, in having a positive and uplifting attitude, in the matter of personal faith and in living a life of moral purity.

The influence of light is in dispelling darkness. Darkness cannot exist where light is found for darkness is the absence of light. Jesus commands us, not to hide our lights, but to let the light of our influence for good shine before men. In other words, we must let the light of our influence dispel the darkness of sin in the world. Exerting a good influence in our lives glorifies, that is, magnifies and brings honor, to God. Inspiration uses a phrase in Galatians 2:20 that suggests this type of influence. *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”* To let “Christ live in me” is equivalent to living “by faith in the Son of God.” To put it simply, when one follows the teaching of the Bible in his/her life then that person is allowing Christ to live in him/her for that person is living by faith (Romans 10:17; 4:12; 2 Corinthians 5:7).

Consider the matter of parental influence. As parents we are given the instruction to bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Whether we exert the proper influence over our children will go a long way in determin-

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ing their eternal destiny. If we are willing to sacrifice our time and effort in teaching them the Word of God in the home and in seeing that they attend Bible classes and worship, then we can expect positive results (Proverbs 22:6). If we fail to set the proper example of love and faithfulness to God in our lives our children will see that and be influenced away from God. In other words, by our influence we can either encourage their salvation or contribute to their being lost. It is YOUR choice as a parent.

Consider the matter of influencing the lost. The lost with whom we come in contact day by day hear what we say and see what we do. They base their conclusions about New Testament Christianity and whether it appeals to them upon what they see in our lives. If they see a faithful Christian, they have a positive view of original Christianity. If they see an unfaithful Christian, they are influenced in the opposite direction. It is impossible to encourage others to listen to the truth if you are not living it in your own life. A bad influence cannot be hidden any more than a good influence. It is YOUR choice as a Christian as to whether you exert an influence that will lead to the salvation of the lost.

What kind of influence are you exerting by the life you are now living? Exerting the right kind of influence in the world is directly related to the strength of one's love and faith in God. One who genuinely loves God will show it in his life by his continued submission to the will of God. One who genuinely believes God and trusts Him will have no problem with letting his light shine in such a way as to glorify his God. In humility and with the deepest sense of responsibility and accountability, "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven!"

***"Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith" (1 Tim 1:5)***

### COME VISIT WITH US

The church building is located southeast of Murray one mile off highway 641 - Near the corner of the Green Plain and Murray Paris Roads. We look forward to seeing you!

## Bible Study Opportunities

### SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE

CLASS 10:00 AM

*Study of 1 Timothy*

### SUNDAY AM WORSHIP

10:45

*"Why APRAY?"*

### SUNDAY PM WORSIP 2:00

*"The Significance of Jesus' Ascension"*

### Wednesday 7:00 pm

*Study of Matthew*



A Bi-Weekly Podcast Available wherever you get your Podcasts